

Dan Ryan Expressway

Case Study Overview:

Name: Dan Ryan Expressway Road Construction Project

Location: Chicago, IL

Administered by: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)

Work: Addition of an express lane in both directions from 31st Street to the I-57 interchange

Estimated Completion date: August 2007

Number of Vehicles Retrofitted: Target of 290

Equipment Retrofitted: Construction Equipment

Technology: diesel oxidation catalyst (DOCs) and ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel (ULSD)

Summary:

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) unveiled a major pollution reduction initiative on the reconstruction project of the Dan Ryan Expressway which runs directly through the middle of the south side of Chicago. This unprecedented groundbreaking project is the result of recommendations from a Dan Ryan Health and Environmental Focus Group in conjunction with the U.S. and Illinois Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA), Chicago Public Schools, American Lung Association and other local agencies.

Approximately 290 pieces of equipment in use on the Dan Ryan project will have emissions control devices or will use ULSD fuel. These emission control strategies, which are unprecedented in the United States, are a contract requirement for equipment operating on the Dan Ryan project. This initiative is funded in part through a \$60,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that was secured by the IEPA.

Reduced idling is also a focus of the project. Contractors will be required to establish truck staging areas while waiting to load or unload. These areas will be located where the impact on sensitive receptors is minimal, and away from fresh air intakes. Idle time is limited to no more than five consecutive minutes when the vehicle is not in use. There are some exceptions to this requirement such as in extreme cold or heat, when the vehicle is forced to remain motionless due to traffic, during repairs, etc.

The health and environmental focus group, comprised of experts from local hospitals, health organizations, colleges and universities, have provided IDOT with recommendations that will ensure health and environmental concerns are met during the Dan Ryan construction project. IDOT plans to use the report as a guide for all future construction and it is already serving as a model for other transportation agencies throughout the country. The Illinois Tollway Authority has also adopted IDOT's Clean Air Construction Initiative and is mandating the use of either ULSD fuel or retrofitting heavy construction equipment on the reconstruction and widening projects along the south Tri-State (I-80/294) and the Ronald Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), as well as on the construction of the I-355 South Extension.

As part of the campaign, IDOT created Dan the Air Bear whose signs have been placed along the Dan Ryan construction route to report daily air quality as good (Green Day), moderate (Yellow Day), unhealthy for sensitive groups (Orange Day) or unhealthy (Red Day). Additionally, the campaign's education component focuses on the distribution of information in various community locations about environmental issues and health concerns, such as asthma, including contact information for those who have questions or need medical attention.

The four-year \$430 million Dan Ryan Expressway (I-94/90) Reconstruction project spans from 31st street to I-57/Halsted street. As part of the reconstruction, IDOT will add expressway lanes,

improve local access roads and reconfigure the Skyway interchange to allow for safer driving conditions.

More information can be found at www.danryanexpressway.com/press/r042605.html

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